

Application No. 10/825,103
Amendment dated May 14, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 5, 2007

Docket No.: SON-3000

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figs. 3 and 9.

Attachment: Replacement sheet
 Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

This Amendment is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed March 5, 2007. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates Examiner's acknowledgement of receipt of priority documents.

Applicant also appreciates Examiner's careful attention to the specification as shown in the objections noted in the March 5 action. These objections have been addressed, improving the quality of this application and placing it in better condition for allowance.

Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicant regards a the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims have been amended to correct idiomatic concerns and more clearly establish positive antecedent basis. For example, claim 1 has been amended to recite "an inserted disk," claim 4 has been amended to refer to "said shorter side members" (elements clearly recited in claim 2), and claim 7 has been amended to indicate that "the disk drive body has recess portions disposed so as to oppose to the shorter-side members."

For at least these reasons, Applicant requests that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,207,342 to Tsuji et al. ("Tsuji"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tsuji teaches a housing mechanism for electronic devices, such as floppy disk drives. (Tsuji, Abstract). The housing comprises upper and lower portions, which surround the floppy disk drive in a "sandwich[]" fashion. (Tsuji, 3:66-4:2). The two housing portions have means

for engaging with each other to hold the housing together. (Tsuji, 2:52-64, Fig. 1). While Tsuji may teach some form of apparatus for use with a disk drive, it does not teach Applicant's claimed invention.

With regard to claim 1, Tsuji fails to adequately teach or suggest all of the recited features. For example, Tsuji fails to teach or suggest "a decorative panel covering approximately the entire surface of the side faces [of a disk drive body] and being disposed so as to be detachable from the side faces [of a disk drive body]." First, Tsuji does not teach that any of the housing components are detachable after the housing is assembled. Rather, Tsuji teaches that "the lower cabinet 1 and the upper cabinet 2 are . . . firmly fixed to each other." (Tsuji, 3:34-35). Second, Tsuji fails to teach the disk drive body; rather, Tsuji teaches only the various components of the housing. (Tsuji, 2:14, 3:66-67). For example, component 2, identified as reading on a disk drive body in the March 5 Office Action, is merely the "upper cabinet," (Tsuji, 2:52), of a "housing," (Tsuji, 2:8-9), "for *accommodating* . . . a floppy disk drive," (Tsuji, 2:4-6) (emphasis added). Although Tsuji may teach that the cabinets of the housing are meant to sandwich a disk drive body, (Tsuji, 3:66-4:2), Tsuji does not teach or suggest how the cabinets attach (or detach) from said disk drive body.

Therefore claim 1 is patentable over Tsuji for at least these reasons. Furthermore, claims 2, 4, 6, and 7, which are dependent on claim 1 and incorporate all of the limitations recited therein, are also patentable for at least these reasons.

With regard to claim 2, Tsuji fail to adequately teach or suggest all of the recited features. Claim 2 has been amended to recite *[t]he disk drive apparatus as cited in claim 1, wherein said decorative panel comprises:*

a flat panel portion shaped as a rectangle by having a periphery thereof with longer-sides and shorter-sides; and

shorter-side members disposed along the shorter-sides of the flat panel portion, each shorter-side member comprising one of a first engaging

piece and a first engaging groove for engagement with the disk drive body.

As previously noted, Tsuji does not describe any means by which the cabinets engage with a disk drive body; Tsuji only describes means by which the cabinets engage with each other. (see Tsuji, 2:54-62, 3:17-35, 4:27-29, 4:36-41). Thus Tsuji cannot be said to teach “shorter-side members . . . comprising one of a first engaging piece and a first engaging groove for engagement with the disk drive body.” Furthermore, even if upper cabinet 2 were interpreted as reading on a disk drive body, neither lugs 14 (having holes 14a and 14b) nor cord clamp 11 are described as engaging with upper cabinet 2. Engagement can only be said to occur with the addition of brushings 4a and 4b (as described in the March 5 Office Action), however, these brushings are wholly separate components and not comprised by any of the rectangular cabinet portions.

Therefore claim 2 is patentable over Tsuji for at least these reasons. Furthermore, claims 4, 6, and 7, which are dependent on claim 2 and incorporate all of the limitations recited therein, are also patentable for at least these reasons.

With regard to claim 4, Tsuji fail to adequately teach or suggest all of the recited features. Claim 4 has been amended to recite *[t]he disk drive apparatus as cited in claim 2, wherein said decorative panel further comprises:*

a plurality of said shorter-side members; and

longer-side members disposed along the longer-sides of the flat panel portion, the number of which is less than the number of said shorter-side members, each longer-side member comprising one of a second engaging piece and a second engaging groove for engagement with the disk drive body.

As previously noted, Tsuji does not describe any means by which the cabinets engage with a disk drive body; Tsuji only describes means by which the cabinets engage with each other. (see Tsuji, 2:54-62, 3:17-35, 4:27-29, 4:36-41). Thus Tsuji cannot be said to teach “longer-side members . . . comprising one of a second engaging piece and a second engaging groove for

engagement with the disk drive body.” Furthermore, even if upper cabinet 2 were interpreted as reading on a disk drive body and engaging teeth 13a, 13b, 13c, and 13d were interpreted as these longer-side members, Tsuji clearly shows more of these (4) than any purported shorter side members (at most, 3).

Applicant is unable to find support in Tsuji for the “grooves” identified in the March 5 Office Action between lugs 14 and engaging teeth 13a and 13c. Alternatively, Applicant is unable to find support for how these identified locations are differentiable from the spaces between locking legs 15 and engaging teeth 13b and 13d. Applicant therefore believes that Tsuji does not teach any grooves as recited, or at best teaches 4 such grooves.

Therefore claim 4 is patentable over Tsuji for at least these reasons.

With regard to claim 6, Tsuji fail to adequately teach or suggest all of the recited features. Claim 4 has been amended to recite *[t]he disk drive apparatus as cited in claim 2, wherein*

said decorative panel has longer-side members disposed along the longer-sides of the flat panel portion, each longer-side member comprising one of a second engaging piece and a second engaging groove for engagement with the disk drive body; and

the longer-side members are formed so as to be smaller than the shorter-side members.

As previously noted, Tsuji does not describe any means by which the cabinets engage with a disk drive body; Tsuji only describes means by which the cabinets engage with each other. (see Tsuji, 2:54-62, 3:17-35, 4:27-29, 4:36-41). Thus Tsuji cannot be said to teach “longer-side members . . . comprising one of a second engaging piece and a second engaging groove for engagement with the disk drive body.” Furthermore, even if upper cabinet 2 were interpreted as reading on a disk drive body, Tsuji does not teach or suggest anything regarding the relative sizes of lugs 14, engagement teeth 13, or cord clamp 11. If, as the March 5 Action postulates, some grooves between lugs 14 and engagement teeth 13a and 13c read on these longer-side

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members, Fig. 2 would depict these "grooves" as being larger than any of the other features. Therefore claim 6 is patentable over Tsuji for at least these reasons.

In light of the above, Applicant requests that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-3000 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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Attachments

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REPLACEMENT SHEET

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES



FIG.9

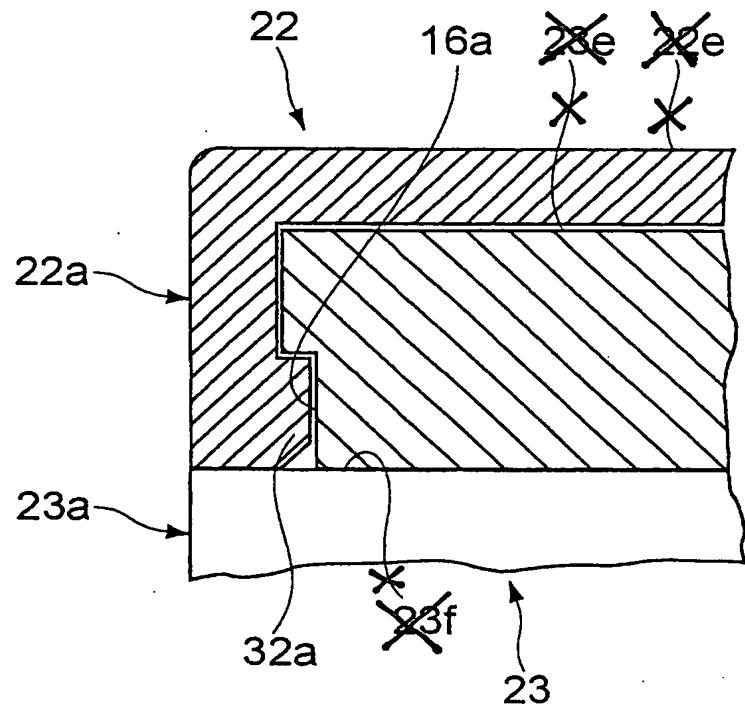


FIG.3

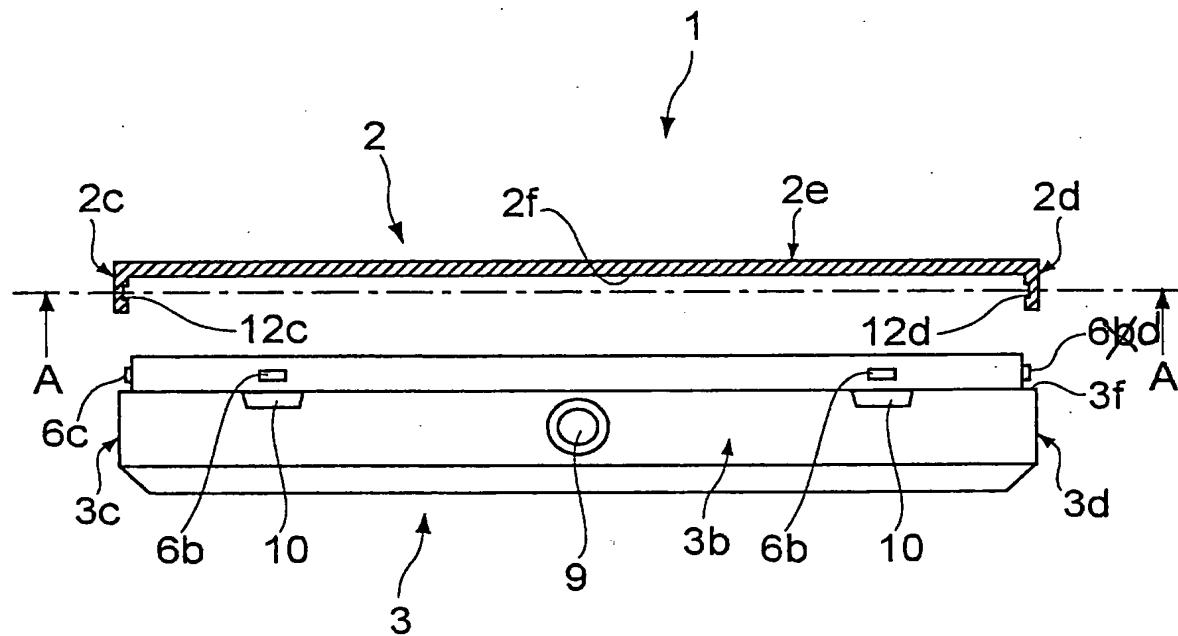


FIG.4

